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Mystery Kissinger-Dobrynin Meeting

To the relief of many people — from liberal Democrats to conservative Republicans — Henry Kissinger will probably have no official position in Ronald Reagan's administration.

But thanks to his continuing support in Republican circles, including steadfast endorsement by former president Gerald Ford, the charming, German-born, ex-Harvard professor still may have powerful influence in the new regime.

One of the main reasons Kissinger was considered a poor chance for nomination as Reagan's secretary of state is the distinct possibility that confirmation hearings in the Senate would touch off a political bloodbath that the incoming president doesn't need.

One of the reasons a Kissinger confirmation hearing could lead to such an explosion is his mysterious meeting with Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin on April 11, 1977 — less than three months after Jimmy Carter moved into the White House. Reagan's advisers are worried about the meeting — and with good reason.

Kissinger has never said what went on at the session. The only account of what might have been said was contained in a cable from the Soviet Embassy to the Kremlin. The six-page cable was turned over to the CIA by its top agent in Moscow, a Russian whose code-name was "Trigon."

According to Dobrynin's cable, Kissinger told him Carter's SALT II pro-

posal was unacceptable, had misinterpreted the Soviet position and should be rejected by the Russians. Kissinger also told the Soviet ambassador, according to the still-secret cable, that Carter's policy on human rights merely showed the naivete and weakness of the new president and his national security adviser, Zbigniew Brzezinski.

In addition, according to the ultra-secret cable, Kissinger told Dobrynin he still had some sources on the National Security Council, and fully expected to stay current on developments within that agency that would be of interest to the Soviets.

If the Dobrynin cable was authentic — and accurate — it constituted evidence of near-treason against the former secretary of state.

The Carter administration treated the Dobrynin cable as if it were radioactive. Brzezinski, when told about it by CIA chief Stansfield Turner, reportedly said something to the effect of, "My God, this is political dynamite!" He ordered its dissemination heavily restricted. Incredibly, the microfilmed copy of the cable disappeared.

There was a hitch to the dynamite cable, however. It was the last transmission the CIA got from Trigon before he was arrested by the KGB. So some experts believe that it was a deliberate piece of disinformation cooked up by the Kremlin. Forgeries are old stuff for the Russian secret service.

What worries the CIA is that such

forgeries must have the approval of the Politburo itself, and thus indicate a significant political move by the Kremlin. If the Dobrynin cable was indeed a fake — sent out after Trigon had been compromised — it points to a hostility toward SALT II from the highest level of the Soviet government. It showed a willingness by the Kremlin to discredit not only Kissinger, but the very able Soviet ambassador as well.

The CIA's deputy chief of counterintelligence was ordered to submit an "operational analysis" on the Dobrynin cable. Sources told my associate Dale Van Atta that the CIA official's report concluded that what Kissinger had done "bordered on treason."

The report was pigeonholed by the White House. Its author was removed from his headquarters post and transferred overseas.

It is skeletons like these in Kissinger's closet that kept the Reagan people from naming the former secretary to a post that would require Senate confirmation.

Cut-Rate Clearance — Nepotism is a budgetary bonus at the CIA when it comes to summer jobs. The young people who tend to get hired for go-fer jobs during the vacation season are children of CIA employees. As an agency source explained: "Even the most menial job at Langley [headquarters] requires a security investigation. Why spend \$1,000 for an 18-year-old to get cleared, when the children of employees have already been investigated."